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PROGRAM CBS Morning News

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SUBJECT Richard Osborne

BILL KURTIS: The Soviet Union is accusing a high-ranking American diplomat this morning of espionage. David Andelman has the story from Moscow.

David, what happened over there? We're just getting the first word of the story to come into us right now. Can you describe it?

DAVID ANDELMAN: Well, it's clear that the chill climate between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, between the two countries, had a lot to do with it. The Tass announcement said only that Richard Osborne, a first secretary of the American Embassy, was detained March 7th, caught, in Tass's words, red-handed while working with espionage radio apparatus. The apparatus was said by the Soviet announcement to have included equipment to transmit information via the U.S. Marisat (?) communications satellite. And at the same time, also seized were said to be a pad made of paper quickly soluble in water, which allegedly exposed Osborne's espionage activities.

They did not disclose the nature of these activities, nor any indication of where or under what circumstances he was seized. And he's still in Moscow.

KURTIS: David Andelman, in Moscow, thank you for that live line. Just a bit of disturbance on it.